



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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Environmental assessment for construction and operation of training structure to support NEST program at Kirtland

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KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. – The Department of Energy has prepared an environmental assessment evaluating potential impacts on the environment associated with the construction and operation of a training structure to support the Nuclear Emergency Search Team (NEST) program on Kirtland Air Force Base. As part of this action, the Air Force proposes to modify a land use permit issued to DOE that would allow the structure to be built on Air Force property.

Sandia National Laboratories proposes to construct and operate the training structure within the boundary of the Explosive Test Facility located on Kirtland. The structure would be used to train military, FBI, and other emergency response personnel who respond to terrorist acts involving nuclear materials and sophisticated explosive devices. Training associated with the structure would not involve the use of actual nuclear material or explosives.

The Air Force proposes a finding of no significant impact on the natural and human environment from the construction and operation of the training structure.

A copy of the environmental assessment is available at the Albuquerque Technical Vocational Institute (TVI) Montoya campus library. The public comment period ends Sept. 8. Individuals wishing further information, or to contribute comments, should contact John McGlothlen, National Environmental Policy Act program manager, (505) 846-4377.

